scheme by which the sinner can be received into favour, must not be allowed to overlook these essential elements of the Divine nature and perfections.

In contemplating its moral state and the relation in which it stands to God, the mind of man has ever felt in its unsophisticated musings that there must be some satisfaction given to God and his law. Hence the services which the heathen have paid *to* God, and the sacrifices which they have offered with the view of appeasing him. These " unconscious prophecies ' (as Trench has called tiem) of the one great offering and sacrifice, shew that man feels his need of reconciliation with a God who has had just cause of displeasure. Yet they point to the need of a true saviour less by what they furnish than by its palpable insufficiency to effect the end contemplated. What man brings shews that he has felt the void., but shews, too, that he cannot fill it. The remedies applied prove that disease exists, but prove at the same time that they are unfit to heal it. ' .

There is something in man's nature which intimates that God, in calling—as he does call-r-his creatures into judgment, demands of them that they bring an obedience. It is because of this deeply seated feeling that there are such exertions made by the thoughtful to procure a righteousness; hence the ceremonial services to which mankind naturally resort, "going about to establish a righteousness of their own." Need we shew how vain the attempt ? For why does God demand obedience ? It is because of his very nature and character as a just God, and from the relation in which he stands to his creatures as their Governor. But the same attribute of God which leads him to demand obedience, makes him also demand that it be an obedience in all things, at all times, and in all places. The conscience is in this respect in unison with the Word of God, and announces that the righteousness which man brings should be spotless and per-

fect. But then, in transacting with God, no given man can present any such righteousness.

As feeling this, man has ever anxiously looked round for a substitute, and would fondly believe that he has found such in a priesthood, or in some creature representative. But the proposed substitution, while it shows the feeling of need, only brings out the more strikingly the impotence of the remedy. For a fellow-man, from the circumstance that he is a sinner, cannot